

THOUGHTS OF INANITY,

A Sort of Editorial.

Here, at last, is Mallorn 6! I apologise for its lateness - two and a half months - especially to the Numenorian Smial members who must have been waiting for me to get this issue out, so that they could get on with their own issue (Mallorn 7). The great delay of this issue has been awaiting the last few items to arrive; now they have and here it is. Anyway, to make up for the delay, I have made this issue the largest to date, giving you much more for your money and, I hope, you find it all of interest, although that is something that you will have to tell me in your LOCs.

I suppose all members of the TS will have had and read John Martin's bulletin Henneth Annun 1. I honestly hope that this issue, contrary to John's opinions, will not be the best issue ever - I hope that future issues will be first class magazines, much better than anything before. But, as John states, this will all depend upon 'you'. Membership participation has always been pretty poor in this Society, I am sorry to say, with each issue of Mallorn sporting the same names - of those who have bothered to contribute. I agree with John in that we cannot expect paying members to put themselves out in producing material for their own magazine, but if you do not, who will? One can 'always' come up with the attitude, "Somebody else will always do it," but that is an attitude that does not always work, and it is not working now! Oh well, I suppose that it is all a matter of conscience. Anyway, if you do have any contributions for the magazine, please send them to another Jon - Jon S. Simons, 11 Regal Way, Harrow, Middlesex, HA30RZ.

Returning to this issue of Mallorn, you may have noticed that it is not the foolscap size of the last few issues, but the A4 size of Mallorn 1, although it is twice as thick as that issue. Why? Well, when I first offered to edit this issue I said that I did not like the foolscap size and wanted to make the mag smaller and a much neater thing. I was asked whether A4 was alright and I said yes! Whether this will be the standard size for all future issues of Mallorn will have to be seen as stencils are by no means cheap articles, and economics are economics!



There have been various other changes, as well as the size, in this issue - the absence of "Belladonna's Postbag"; the removal of the "Letters to the Editor" from its prominent frontal position to the back of the mag; the absence of short, superficial book reviews; and the absence of Mrs. Chapman's serial, to have been continued herein. The reason for the first two of these is found in Mallorn 5 -

a third of the magazine is taken up by letters; this renders the magazine more of a glorified letter column rather than a journal. We have a bulletin, and it should contain all correspondence not associated with the contents of Mallorn. Also, the letter column right at the front of the magazine renders the remaining pieces of the magazine as being quite superficial; hence, the LoCs have been relegated to the back of this issue. As for the other two changes: I find short book reviews, as found in previous issues, meaningless personal opinions - as can be seen over the difference of opinion in the letter column over "Bored of the Rings"; Belladonna's serial, as echoed by the opinions in the letter column, I did not find to my taste and so have dispensed with it for my issue. If you wish it to be returned, please write and let us know.

Before I finish with this issue, I must thank those people who contributed to this issue but are not members of the TS - Jim Pitts, Alan Hunter, Brian Talbot and Mike Cruden. All gratefully contributed, although they did not have to do so. I appreciate their help. As part return, I would like to mention that Mike Cruden has his own magazine, Sector. The format is much the same as this magazine, in quarto size, although the emphasis is towards fantasy in general and cartoon strip fantasy in particular. It is an intelligent little magazine of articles, reviews, artwork and letters and is available from Mike for 15p at 8 Swinbourne Grove, Withington, Manchester 20.

While on the subject of other publications, I have given my own magazine, Balthus, a mention on page 11. I wrote that piece some time ago and, on reflection, it is a bit 'overdone'. To date, Balthus has gone down pretty well with its readers and the artwork is of a fair standard - in fact, the cover of Balthus 2 by Jim Pitts, the cover artist of this magazine, won the Ken McKintyre Memorial Award of 1971. Anyway, those interested in it can possibly guess from this magazine what to expect in my own magazine.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: This will be held on Saturday, February 17th at the Sherlock Holmes Hotel, Baker Street, London. The meeting will be followed by a festival Dinner, at which we hope to have some distinguished and interesting speakers. Dinner and meeting will cost £2 per head, inclusive of tips but not wines. Members will meet informally from 4pm. onward and tea will be available; the business meeting will commence at 5pm. and Dinner at 7.30pm. Those who wish to attend, please write before January 20th with the fee of £2 to the Secretary (address on page 1). Members wishing to attend the A.G.M. but not the Dinner will be admitted for a small charge, but admission to the Dinner by ticket only.

- Jon M. Harvey.